

## **ROLL CALL**

## **STATEMENT CONCERNING THE ANNUAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Nomination Committee will announce the slate of officers for 2015 -2016. Nominations will then be accepted from the floor. Elections will immediately follow.

**MINUTES**                      Approval of the June 10, 2015 and July 8, 2015 Open Board Minutes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **LEGISLATION**

A 4497      Seeks to prohibit courts and professional boards from denying professional licenses to child support obligors under certain circumstances.

The Executive Committee recommended support of this legislation as it will address issues which confront the Board

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of Medical Examiners, as well as other professions within the Division of Consumer Affairs. With these proposed changes, it will allow for the establishment of a payment plan in order to allow the obligor to catch up with outstanding, and become current with payments.

A 4661     Seeks to establish maximum fees for providing copies of patient medical records.

When the Executive Committee reviewed this bill, it echoed the comments made by the Board when similar legislation was proposed in the past. It questioned the need to codify the proposed amended requirements in statutory form because this would not permit the same flexibility as does the regulatory process. The board's regulations are very detailed and already address issues or concerns which this piece of legislation would seek to address. Codification may not be in the best interest of patients as the flexibility of the regulatory process permits the board to adjust its regulatory scheme in a more timely manner as the practice of medicine evolves. The Committee is generally supportive of again reviewing the provisions which seek to alter the current fees that can be charged and under what circumstances. When the Executive Committee reviewed the charges approximately a year ago, it believed the current charges were reasonable. The Committee did recognize the addition concerning provision of the records through electronic means and believed the current regulation should be amended in that regard. The Committee was not aware of any changed circumstances

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which might warrant a regulatory change, however, it did suggest a new review. The Board was also supportive of the concept that patients who cannot afford to pay should be given some consideration. However, the way in which this proposal contemplates that accommodation appears to be difficult, if not impossible, to apply. The accommodation should be made on a case by case basis as the physician is in the best assessment to determine when the records should be provided without charge. As currently proposed, it may actually discourage physicians from providing services in lower income areas because of the difficulties imposed by determining who might qualify for a no-pay provision of records.

- A 4639     Seeks to establish the “New Jersey Aphasia Task Force” to assess needs of persons with aphasia and their families and to ensure adequate provisions of support services and information are available thereto.

The Executive Committee recommended not taking a position in favor or against the proposal.

- A 4672     Seeks to repeal the law suspending certain licenses, registrations, and certifications for failure to repay student loans.

The Executive Committee recommended that the Board oppose this legislation as it permits individuals from their

obligation not to repay their contractual obligations. The licensee received the benefit of the law and should be obligated to pay back the funds advanced so they could attain the license, which provides them the means to repay them.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing Scheduled

## **INFORMATIONAL** **TELEMEDICINE FOR MEDICARE ACT OF 2015**

The TeleMedicine for Medicare Act of 2015 (“TeleMed Act”) was introduced in the House and Senate (S 1778/HR 3081). The day after its introduction, Health IT Now held a standing room only briefing to kick off introduction of the legislation. This legislation was introduced by Representatives Devin Nunes (R-CA) and Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and in the Senate by Senators Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA).

This bill is of significant concern to state medical and osteopathic boards as it would allow a physician to treat Medicare beneficiaries via telemedicine in another state without having to be licensed where the patient is located, drastically overhauling the current licensure system for physicians participating in Medicare.

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The Executive Committee has been reviewing various issues concerning Telemedicine and anticipates appointing a committee of the Board in the near future to grapple with many of the challenging issues presented by this issue.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**